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Correspondence,  
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Box 7, Folder 5

August 27, 1958 -  
November 1, 1958

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
NEWPORT, R. I.

AUG 27 1958

Dear Admiral Bates:

I am happy to learn that you will be able to address the staff and students of the Naval Warfare Course on the subject "Naval Decision Making" at 1030 on Wednesday, 3 September 1958, and to address the staff and students of the Command and Staff Course and Senior Foreign Officers on the same subject at 1100 on Monday, 15 September 1958.

In view of your recent change from active duty to retired status, I am now authorized to provide an honorarium of one hundred fifty dollars for expenses incident to these services.

We look forward to the stimulating experience of again hearing your views on this important subject matter.

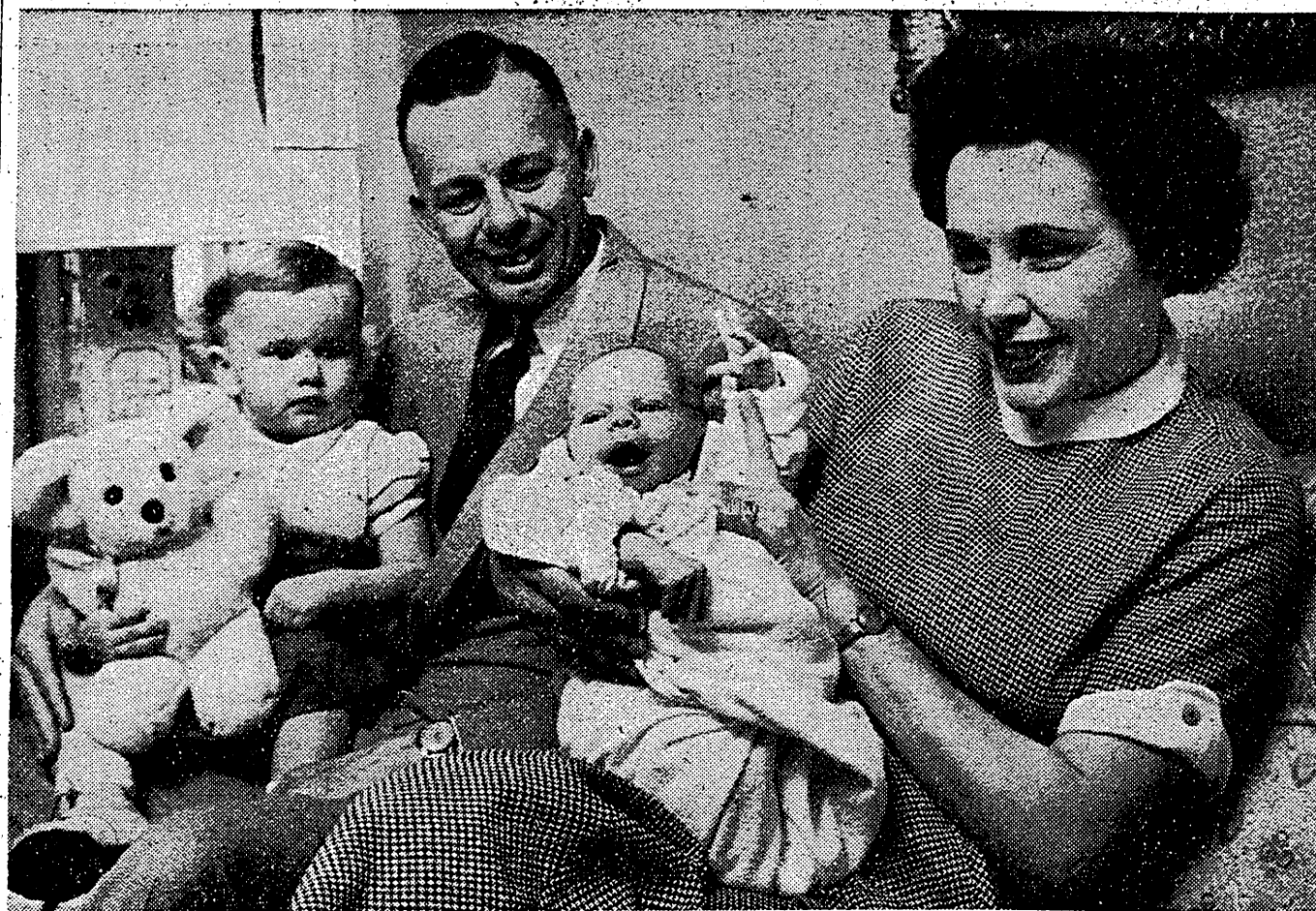
Sincerely yours,



S. H. INGERSOLL  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy  
President, Naval War College

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret)  
12 Mt. Vernon Street  
Newport, Rhode Island

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**Mayor's Youngest** Mayor and Mrs. P. K. Peterson posed Tuesday

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JOHN CROFT  
 was born April 14. She weighed seven pounds, five ounces then. With the Petersons is their other little girl, Jane, who will be 2 on Sunday.

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7 September 1958

Dear Admiral,

You must forgive me for having delayed so long in speaking to you of much that has been on my mind the last two months. I suppose you have completed my fitness report so that I cannot be accused of being ingratiating.

The two years spent working for you were an unforgettable experience. I believe sincerely that the best training that an individual can receive is through serving with an outstanding person. The term "outstanding" has been altogether overworked in naval parlance but when I use it to epitomize both your character and professional competence I do so without any reservation whatsoever. Furthermore, I firmly believe it's the Navy's shortsighted loss not to have retained you as an analyst of naval campaigns and battles for without the lessons of history to guide our future course we will sail precariously through, as we are now, uncharted waters that are not without dangerous shoals.

In reviewing more recently the command relationships in the various NATO arrangements I fail to see how they make for sound military organization in time of war. The fact of coordinate command so dominates NATO arrangements that its ability to react fast and properly prosecute a war situation is highly questionable to my way of thinking. My impression might be altogether wrong if our reaction is all-out under all conditions of USSR aggression but for various forms of limited war I am convinced the NATO coordinated command approach is unwieldy and therefore unsatisfactory.

Your books clearly point out and explain the weakness of these arrangements.

Since arriving here I have been working hard to orient myself but this has not kept me from enjoying one day a week, either Saturday or Sunday out in the mountains fishing. The trout abound and I have caught a hundred or so of the beauties so far. My job is a good one. It is most fascinating in that I have to be aware of all of the activities of the staff and this "overview" is something I have never been exposed to before in the operational sense. The political implications of the activities of the Iceland Defense Force almost predominate. Iceland is unique in so many ways. She is a nation intensely nationalistic, her nationalism being fortified by her long democratic and "pure" racial traditions. Extremely jealous of the culture she has developed she nevertheless wants, as so many other small nations do, all the advantages that modern technology has produced without any of the disadvantages which might accrue. This places her somewhat at a disadvantage in that she has enjoyed an inflated standard of living through the gifts, loans and construction programs provided by the U.S. while her industrial base has not been developed in a manner which would close the gap between her standard of living and her capacity to maintain this standard in the absence of the U.S. Defense Force. Yet her power sources are only waiting to be exploited. Besides the hydroelectric resources there are many hot springs. Even today I visited a spot where live steam pours out of the ground and then dissipates in the atmosphere. There are literally thousands of such sources of geothermal power. To ensure that her culture will not be disturbed by industrial development (and this is a very illogical action) her legislative body passed a law that any company established by a foreign concern here will have fifty-one per-cent of its stock owned by the Icelandic government. This is of course a very real barrier to foreign capital investments.

As you may have read in a recent issue of Newsweek, Iceland's strategic position becomes more important as the development of the submarine and missile progress. For this reason we (the Defense Force) are exploited in devious though thorough fashion by the Icelandic government. They are fully aware of our need to both remain here and deny its use to our enemy. I could say much more but the matter of classification forbids me to do so.

In the past few weeks since my arrival, the NATO standing group, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the new Deputy Chief of Staff of CINCLANT have visited here just to mention a few. These have all shown interest and concern over the prospects of

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our remaining here. Incidentally, when I asked ADM. Davis about ADM. Wright's future he told me that so far as he knew, so long as Eisenhower remained president Wright would remain CINCLANT. I took ADM. Davis and his party fishing.

My boss is an Air Force general who although unorthodox in certain respects is a good man. He has a good mind and a thorough understanding of his mission, the problems attendant thereto, and as a result is very effective in setting the course to properly attain this goal. The chief of staff is an army colonel, recently from the staff at Leavenworth. In looking around it appears that considerable care was taken in selecting the officers for this staff. To counter this, however, I might add that the naval officer who had my job, once removed, was just passed over for captain. It appears that this last selection was quite as you predicted. Cdr. Southard recently of the War College Staff was also passed over.

Jane tells me that everything is going smoothly on Easton's Point. The children have had a very enjoyable summer and are ready for school. She has been quite busy which is as she wants it. I trust her teaching in St. Michael's will be of mutual benefit to her and the school. Young Dye, my oldest is now working on becoming a First Class scout. He seems to have assumed greater responsibilities since pop shoved off and I suppose this is all right for the time being. I do miss my family but have been very busy while here and have had no time at all to bemoan my plight or feel sorry for certain privations. The job here will keep me well occupied for the next year and as you know I will have other fish to fry as time goes on. It seems I am never happy unless there is just a little more for me to do than I can possibly do. It keeps me young. Without a challenge life would quickly lose its lustre.

I trust you are active and constructively occupied which is as it should be.

Enclosed is a clipping which you have probably seen but it does quite clearly bear out my predictions of some months ago regarding the Polaris submarine. I have always felt that our higher command could with a little thought stay ahead of congress rather than being forced into something that may or may not be what the navy needs and wants. The "separate funding" arrangement is, as I predicted the way of divorcing this weapons system from the overall navy budget. It should work. It has for SAC.

My very best to you Admiral and I am ever grateful for the opportunity afforded me in serving under you. Please give my best to Roy and Jack.



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From Commodore W.J. Parker, C.B.E., D.S.C., Royal Navy.

Senior Naval Officer, West Indies,  
Ireland Island,  
Bermuda.

1st November, 1958.

*Dear Admiral Bates,*

It gave me great pleasure to receive your letter of 16th October about our visit to Newport. Thank you for your kind remarks which we all very much appreciate.

We have many happy memories of Newport and will long remember the warm welcome and kind hospitality we received from the U.S. Navy.

With best wishes from us all.

*Yours Sincerely*  
*John Parker*

Rear Admiral R.W. Bates, U.S.N. (Retd),  
Naval War College,  
Newport,  
Rhode Island.

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